

On December 13, 2005 the U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded multi-year grant funds to Mississippi, New York, Oregon, Texas and West Virginia for innovative approaches in overcoming limited transportation resources in rural areas for the Summer Food Service Program. Over the course of 3 years, \$4 million will be made available to the following service institutions in each state.

Mississippi Department of Education

1. Mississippians for Community Development
2. Moss Point School District
3. Coffeeville School District
4. Hazlehurst City School District
5. Holmes County School District
6. Picayune School District

New York Department of Education

1. Fort Plain Central School District
2. Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc.
3. Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.
4. Food Bank of Central New York
5. Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County, Inc.
6. Corning-Painted Post Area School District
7. Bolivar-Richburg Central School

Oregon Department of Education

1. Integral Youth Services
2. North Bend School District
3. Baker South District 5J
4. Jefferson County School District 509-J
5. Winston-Dillard School District
6. Bend-LaPine School District
7. FOOD for Lane County
8. Beaverton School District

Texas Health and Human Services Commission

1. West Texas Food Bank
2. East Texas Food Bank

West Virginia Department of Education

1. North Central WV Community Action Association
2. Playmates Preschool and Child Care Center Inc.
3. Shack Neighborhood House
4. Southern Appalachian Labor School
5. Davis and Elkins College Upward Bound Programs
6. McDowell County Schools
7. Monroe County Board of Education

Below is a representative sample of the types of projects that will be implemented in the five SFSP Rural Transportation Grant States.

Picayune School District is one of six service institutions receiving funding in Mississippi. The grant will allow the school to pay school bus drivers and cover fuel costs to pick up children from remote areas allowing them to participate in summer camps at two schools that offer SFSP. They expect to serve 300-400 students in 2006.

Seven service institutions will receive funding in New York, including Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc. They will rent four vans and purchase food storage equipment to transport meals to 23 rural sites. They expect to serve 848 children in 2006.

North Bend School District #13 is one of Oregon's eight successful applicants. They will purchase two vans in 2006, add colorful nutrition graphics to the exterior and equip them with sound systems to play music and serving platforms. The vans will travel to 22 rural sites, provide a supervised meal service and then move on to the next site. They expect to serve 2300 children in 2006.

Two service institutions in Texas, including East Texas Food Bank will distribute meals across vast areas of Texas. East Texas Food Bank will deliver a two day supply of brown bag lunches every other day to 17 sites. They expect to serve 360 children in 2006.

McDowell County Schools is one of 8 service institutions in West Virginia that will receive a grant. They will expand their summer meal and educational program to all eight schools in the district and use school buses to transport children to the sites. They expect to serve 350 children in 2006.